Pol 14 Viets 1656

Department of State TELEGRAM

EXCISE

CONFIDENTIAL 701

PAGE 01 SAIGON 16571 01 OF 02 160258Z

89
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 UFW-01 AID-20
IO-11 EUR-14 RSR-01 /120 W
009037

R 160145Z OCT 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1173
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Diane Lyndberg DATE 1/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

Saigon 16571 12/31/01

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 16571

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: REACTION TO PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

1. SUMMARY: WITH THE PERSPECTIVE OF ALMOST TWO WEEKS, VIETNAMESE SEEM TO LOOK BACK ON THE OCT 3 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AS AN ANTI-CLIMAX IN COMPARISON WITH THE DRAMATIC EVENTS PRECEDING IT. FOR THE TIME BEING THERE IS A MOOD OF POLITICAL QUIET AND CALM IN MOST OF THE COUNTRY. IN ADDITION TO CONTINUED, BUT DECLINING, CRITICISM OF THIEU BY THE OPPOSITION, PARALLED BY ATTACKS ON THE US FOR SUPPORTING THIEU, THE MOST WIDESPREAD REACTION TO THIEU'S REELECTION HAS BEEN SURPRISE AND SKEPTICIMS AT THE HIGH VOTER TURNOUT AND LARGE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE ANNOUNCED BY THE AUTHORITIES. THERE IS ALSO A GROWING SENSE OF ANTICIPATION AS TO THIEU'S NEXT MOVES, POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE CABINET, CHANGES IN THIEU'S LEADERSHIP STYLE, AND THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY ARE ALL SUBJECTS OF SPECULATION AND RUMOR. EVEN MORE, PEOPLE ARE WAITING FOR THE NEXT AMERICAN MOVE ON VIET-NAM, WITH PRESIDENT NIXON'S TRIP TO PEKING THE MAJOR FOCUS OF INTEREST. END SUMMARY.

2. VIETNAMESE HAVE FOUND IT HARD TO RECONCILE THE ANNOUNCED

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

TOTALS FOR SAIGON AND MANY OTHER CITIES AND PROVINCES WITH THE QUIET THAT PREVAILED ON ELECTION DAY. FOR EXAMPLE, SAIGON POST COLUMNIST TRAN NAM DESCRIBED HIS EARLY MORNING WALK THROUGH SAIGON ON ELECTION DAY, SAYING "WHEREVER WE PASSED A POLLING STATION, WE NOTICED ONLY POLICEMEN AND RIOT GUARDS KEEPING WATCH OVER THE BALLOT-BOXES AND A SPRINKLING OF VOTERS COMING AND GOING." NAM MENTIONED THE ALLEGED REACTION OF TWO OTHER MEN TO THE HIGH TURNOUT LATER ANNOUNCED: "THE SECOND-IN-COMMAND (KY) REPORTEDLY SHOOK WITH LAUGHTER WHEN HE HEARD THE FIGURES OF VOTER TURNOUT. THE LATE PRESIDENT NGO DINH DIEM, A WAG SAID, COULD HAVE TURNED IN HIS ETERNAL RESTING PLACE TO EXCLAIM 'COMRADE, YOU BEAT ME!'" SUCH COMPARISONS WITH DIEM ARE NOW OFTEN HEARD.

3. COLONEL NGUYEN BE, COMMANDANT OF THE NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER IN VUNG TAU, TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HE HAD NOTICED FEW PEOPLE GOING TO THE POLLS IN VUNG TAU CITY AND, AFTER HEARING THE TURNOUT ANNOUNCED AS 82.1 PERCENT, CONCLUDED THE LOCAL OFFICIALS HAD PADDED THE RESULTS. SENATOR PAULINE THO, A PROMINENT CATHOLIC POLITICIAN WHO WAS ONCE CLOSE TO PRESIDENT AND MADAME THIEU, DESCRIBED THE ELECTION RESULTS PRIVATELY AS "HORRIBLE, RIDICULOUS, AWFUL, AND JUST TOO MUCH TO BE BELIEVED." DR. NGUYEN VAN THO, SENATOR THO'S HUSBAND AND FORMER EDUCATION MINISTER, ALSO CLAIMED THE RESULTS HAD BEEN INFLATED. DR. THO ESTIMATED THAT ONLY 40 PERCENT OF THE SAIGON ELECTORATE HAD VOTED IN CONTRAST TO THE 76.5 PERCENT CLAIMED BY THE GOVERNMENT. AN QUANG SENATOR VU VAN MAU SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE ELECTION FROM THE SENATE FLOOR ON OCT 8, CALLING IT "BLATANTLY RIGGED" WITH "UNBELIEVABLE RESULTS." MAU THEN CALLED FOR THE FORMATION OF A SENATE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTION.

4. PRO-GOVERNMENT FIGURES APPEAR RELUCTANT TO DEFEND THE ELECTION, BUT A FEW HAVE SPOKEN OUT. SENATOR NGUYEN VAN NGAI, GENERALLY NOT CONSIDERED A STRONG THIEU SUPPORTER, DEFENDED THE ELECTION ON THE SENATE FLOOR OCT 8, CALLING THE LARGE VOTER TURNOUT A SIGN OF THE MATURITY OF THE VIETNAMESE POLITICAL SYSTEM. PRO-ADMINISTRATION SENATOR TRAN NGOC OANH ON THE SAME OCCASION ALSO DEFENDED THE ELECTION AND COMMENTED THAT HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM ABROAD AND HAD BEEN ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED WITH LEE KUAN YEW'S STYLE OF LEADERSHIP IN SINGAPORE. THE GVN-CONTROLLED SEGMENT OF THE PRESS HAS LIKEWISE BEEN PLAYING THE ELECTION AS A SIGNIFICANT VICTORY AND A STRONG EXPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDENT THIEU. BUNKER

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State

TELEGRAM

Pol 14-Viet S

CONFIDENTIAL 699

PAGE 01 SAIGON 16571 02 OF 02 160310Z

89
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 UPW-01 AID-20
IO-11 EUR-14 RSR-01 /120 W
009129

R 160145Z OCT 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1174
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 16571

5. DESPITE WIDESPREAD SKEPTICISM OVER THE ELECTION RESULTS, THERE APPEARS TO BE A SENSE OF GENERAL RESIGNATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF PRESIDENT'S THIEU'S REELECTION. FURTHER, THERE ARE FEW SIGNS OF ANY STRONG PROTEST REACTION OR INDICATIONS THAT THE ELECTION IS CAUSING THE OPPOSITION TO UNITE. THE REACTION OF AN QUANG HAS BEEN ONLY VOCAL, AND AN QUANG DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE PREPARING FOR ACTION AGAINST THIEU. VENERABLE [redacted] CHIEF AN QUANG BONZE IN [redacted] PROVINCE, TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THE ELECTION WAS "TOTALLY UNDEMOCRATIC" BUT ADDED THE VOTER TURNOUT PERCENTAGES WERE NOT IMPORTANT. [redacted] CLAIMED AN QUANG WOULD OPPOSE THE REGIME BY "COLLECTIVE POLITICAL EFFORTS" RATHER THAN BY DIRECT CONFRONTATION AS IN 1963 AND 1966. AN QUANG [redacted] OCT 12 INDICATED TO EMBASSY OFFFCERS THAT THE LOTUS SLATE IS MORE INTERESTED IN ONGOING UPPER HOUSE AFFAIRS THAN PROTESTING THE ELECTION.

b-1
ed

6. AMERICAN POLICY IS A FAVORITE TARGET OF VIETNAMESE REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL PERSUASION, AND REACTION TO THE ELECTION INCLUDED SOME OF THE STANDARD CRITICISMS OF THE US. PRO-KY SENATOR NGUYEN VAN CHUC WAS QUOTED IN THE MODERATE DAILY TIENG VANG (OCT 5) AS SAYING THE ELECTION RESULTS SHOULD PLEASE PRESIDENT NIXON, WHILE

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

VIETNAMESE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT SEVERAL YEARS TO READ THE AMERICAN "SECRET DOCUMENTS" TO FIND OUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN THE ELECTION. SENATOR HONG SON DUNG, A CLOSE SUPPORTER OF GENERAL MINH, REMARKED THAT THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THE ELECTION WAS TO ASSIST THE "FORFIGN"POLICY OF VIETNAMIZATION (CHINH LUAN, OCT 7). SEVERAL EDITORIALS HAVE APPEARED IN THE OPPOSITION PRESS PLAYING ON THE THEME THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL USE THIEU'S REELECTION AS JUSTIFICATION FOR A FASTER WITHDRAWAL. THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED OPPOSITION DARYY SONG THAN ON OCT 7 SARCASTICALLY EDITORIALIZED, "AFTER 'VIETNAMIZING THE WAR' WITH THE GREAT CHALLENGE IN LOWER LAOS EARLY THIS YEAR, THE AMERICANS NOW PROCEED TO 'POLITICAL VIETNAMIZATION' WHICH CLIMAXES WITH THE OCT 3 ONE-MAN SHOW. THE VIETNAMESE HAVE PROVED THEIR 'MATURITY' IN BOTH MILITARY AND POLITICAL FIELDS. THEREFORE, THE AMERICANS CAN WITHDRAW IN PEACE."

7. IN SUM, THE FAIRLY STRONG AND OCCASIONALLY VIOLENT REACTION AGAINST THE ONE-MAN ELECTION THAT WAS SEEN BEFORE OCT 3 HAS SUBSIDED AND THE OPPOSITION REMAINS DIVIDED. WITH POLITICALLY SOPHISTICATED VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT THIEU LOST STATURE AND HE WILL NEED TO MOVE SKILLFULLY IF HE IS TO RETRIEVE ACTIVE SUPPORT -- AS DISTINGUISHED FROM PASSIVE ACCEPTANCE. POLITICAL SPECULATION HAS NOW MOVED TO DWELL ON WHAT STEPS THIEU WILL BE TAKING, AND ALSO ON WHAT STEPS THE USG WILL NEXT TAKE ON VIET-NAM.
BERGER

CLASSIFICATION

TAB A – RELEASABLE

Department of State

TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 SAIGON 09189 220905Z

3
ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,SP 02,SS 20,
GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,CCO 00,L 03,H 02,SAH 03,SAL 01,INR 07,
P 04,RSR 01,IC 21,AID 30,NIC 01,/129 W

P 220800Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9353

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9189

FOLLOWING TEL RECCIFED FROM DANANG OCT 21 DANANG 256
REPEATED YOUR STA
QUOTE

DANANG 256

SUBJECT: LOWER HOUSE ELECTION IN QUANG NGAI

1. INTEREST IN ELECTION CR QUANG NGAI APPEARS FAIRLY HIGH. A MAJORITY OF CANDIDATES HAVE POSTERS IN PROVINCE CAPITAL AND IN OUTLYING DISTRICTS. NO REAL ISSUES HAVE ARISEN IN CAMPAIGN. ONE CANDIDATE (HONG-QUANG-TRAM) IS USING "DOVE" AS ELECTION SYMBOL BUT PEACE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE BIG ISSUE, NOR IS REFUGEE SITUATION. NIGHT OCTOBER 20 ONE IN SERIES OF SEVERAL RALLIES WAS HELD IN QUANG NGAI CITY. 13 OF 27 CANDIDATES SPOKE TO CROWD OF ABOUT 300 OF WHICH ABOUT 100 WERE CHILDREN. SPEECHES WERE LARGELY PERSONALLY ORIENTED. CA DEPUTY TRAN VAN PHIEN REMARKED

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 9189 C O N F I D E N T I A L
"WE PROMISED YOU A CONSTITUTION AND YOU GOT IT". PHAN TAN NHO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 09189 220905Z

GENERALLY CONSIDERED THE BUDDHIST CANDIDATE CAME OUT STRONGLY FOR PEACE AT RALLY. ONLY ONE ANDIDATE, CIVIL SERVANT NGUYEN THOI VINH IS RUNNING ON VIRULENT ANTI-GVN PLATFORM. HIS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS IS FESTOONED WITH ALL SORTS OF POSTERS DENOUNCING NEW PROVINCE CHIEF, DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF AND GEN THIEU. HE PROVIDES NAMES AND AMOUNTS OF MONEY ALLEGEDLY SWINDLED. HE IS NOT, HOWEVER, A "PEACE-AT-ANY-PRICE" CANDIDATE AND CLAIMED AT DINNER WITH POLITICAL OFFICER THAT HE WAS PRO-US PRESENCE IN VIET NAM.

2. MOST POLITICAL LEADERS IN QUANG NGAI DISCOUNT BUDDHISTS AS MAJOR POLITICAL FORCE IN PROVINCE. IN FACT, IN PRESIDENTIAL RACE LION'S SHARE OF SUU'S APPROX 31,500 VOTES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DELIVERED BY "NTT" FACTION VNQDD. QUAT RECEIVED 17,200 VOTES. APPARENTLY BUDDHISTS HAVE NOT LAUNCHED ACTIVE CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF ANYONE ALTHOUGH "URR" VNQDD LEADER LE-MY-DAI AND PHAN-TAN-NHO ARE GENERALLY EXPECTED TO PICK UP LARGE NUMBER OF BUDDHIST VOTES.

3. CATHOLICS
RE GENERALLY SPOKEN OF AS A MAJOR VOTING FORCE
THOUGH THEY MAKE RELATIVELY SMALL PERCENT OF POPULATION - LESS THAN IN OTHER I CORPS PROVINCES. 4 CATHOLIC CANDIDATES ARE:

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 9189 C O N F I D E N T I A L
CAPT TRAN TOAN THANG
CHAU DINH HOANG
NGUYEN TUNG
NGUYEN VAN CAN

ACCORDING TO RDW CHIEF NGUYEN-LIEU, TAN DAI VIET LEADER TON MAN WILL ALSO PICK-UP CATHOLIC VOTES.

4. ELECTION HAS GIVEN VNQDD CHANCE TO SHOW HOW FACTIONALIZED IT IS. TRAN HOANG'S "NTT" FACTION IS STILL GENERALLY CONCEEDED TO BE LSCGEST (IN UPPER HOUSE ELECTION LIST 37 WHICH FACTION SUPPORTED GAINED 28,000 VOTES OR SOME 16 PERCENT OF VOTERS.) APPARENTLY FACTION IS ABOUT TO BREAK-UP FURTHER AS NGUYEN-AN, FACTION SECGEN AND LEADING LOWER HOUSE CANDIDATE, AND NGUYEN-DUC-TE, CG CHIEF AND PREVIOUSLY ONE OF AN'S CHIEF SUPPORTERS,

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAIGON 09189 220905Z

HAVE ARGUED OVER "POLICY MATTERS". ACCORDING TO RD CHIEF LIEU WHO IS ALSO VNQDD MEMBER, TE IS NOW APPARENTLY SUPPORTING TWO OTHER CANDIDATES. (CIVIL SERVANTS LE-TRUYEN AND VU-QUANG-BINH) YOUNG PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY FORCE (YPRF) LEADER LE-QUANG CHUONG CLAIMED GROUP WAS ONLY SUPPORTING TRAN-TUONG AND HAD FORMED NO ALLIANCES WITH ANYONE ELSE. IN PAST THIS VNQDD GROUP HAS BEEN AFFILIATED WITH "NTT" FACTION, HOWEVER, IN CA ELECTION TUONG ALSO HEADED LIST IN COMPETITION WITH TRAN-HOANG. APPARENTLY SINCE THAT TIME GROUP HAS BEEN SEPARATE. LIST GAINED ABOUT 16,700 VOTES IN CA ELECTION.

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 9189 C O N F I D E N T I A L

5. VO TRANG, VO BAO AND NGUYEN-HUU-LUAN, LEADERS OF "KY BO" AFFILIATED VNQDD, CLAIM THEIR ONLY LOCAL CANDIDATES ARE:

LE VINH HOAI DUC
NGUYEN HUU LY

IN UPPER HOUSE RACE THREE KY BO BACKED LISTS (32, 33, 34) AVERAGED ABOUT 25,000 VOTES.
TRANG CLAIMS HIS GROUP HAS FORMED NO ALLIANCES AND THAT PARTY MUST BE PREPARED TO "FIGHT 3 YEARS FROM NOW" PRESUMABLY MEANING NEXT SENATE ELECTION AND ALSO TACIT ADMISSION THAT TRANG BELIEVES HIS CANDIDATES WILL LOSE. TRANG OPENLY SUPPORTS GVN ON EVERY ISSUE DISCUSSED, FROM THE CHARTER TO THE WAR.

6. LE-MY-DAI, A CANDIDATE, ALSO NOTED NEW SPLIT IN NTT FACTION MENTIONED ABOVE, CLAIMING IT HAPPENED IN LAST 20 DAYS, BUT THAT TE HAS NOT YET BEGUN TO FORM NUCLEUS OF NEW FACTION. DAI, SECGEN OF "URR" VNQDD APPARENPZY AFFILIATED WITH "VHK" FACTION CLAIMS HE LEFT VO-TRANG (KY BO) FACTION (IN MAY 1966) BECAUSE TRANG WAS A PUPPET OF GVN. DAI SAID MANY ISSUES IN 1966 STRUGGLE WERE THINGS THAT HAD TO BE ATTENDED TO, BUT TRANG OPPOSED STRUGGLE IN ENTIRETY. IN SPITE OF HIS SYMPATHY FOR SOME ASPECTS OF STRUGGLE, DAI DENIES HE WILL BE RECIP-IENT OF LARGE BUDDHIST VOTE.

DECLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SAIGON 09189 220905Z

PAGE 5 RUMJIR 9189 C O N F I D E N T I A L
7. DAI VIET PARTY APPEARS TO BE AS SPLINTERED IN QUANG NGAI AS IS VNQDD. DURING PRESIDENTIAL AND UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS FORMER RDV SECGEN TRAN-KY-TE, WHO WAS KICKED OUT OF RDV PARTY, THROUGH HIS SUPPORT TO DZU AND TDV CANDIDATES TAKING MUCH OF RDV ORG-ANIZATION WITH HIM. TRAN-KY-TE CLAIMS THAT IN LOWER HOUSE ELECTION HIS ORGANIZATION ONLY SUPPORTING ONE MAN WHO IS WORKING WITH LE-TRUYEN AND VU-QUA M-BINH. (RDV LEADER LE-VAN IDENTIFIES DANG-THIEN-VUONG WHO IS A NATIONAL POLICEMAN AS IS TE AS ONLY PRO-TE MAN RUNNING). TE GROUP NOW APPEARS TO BE MAINTAINING ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM BOTH RDV AND TDV. PRINCIPAL TDV CANDIDATE IS TON-MAN, PROVINCE SECGEN WHO REPRESENTED DZU IN PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. DZ WON PLURALITY IN QUANG NGAI. OTHER PROBABLE TDV CANDIDATE IS HONG-QUANG-TRAM WHO IS USING DOVE EMBLEM. ALTHOUGH APPARENTLY NOT OPENLY IDENTIFIED AS SUCH IN QUANG NGAI NGUYEN BIEN IS CLAIMED AS RDV CANDIDATE BY LE-VAN, DANANG RDV SECGEN AND LEADING PARTY APPARAT IN SOUTHERN I CORPS.

8. ACCORDING TO CVT SECGEN IN QUANG NGAI NGUYEN-NGOC-THIEU AND CVT REP IN BOTH QUANG TIN AND QUANG NGAI DANG-CONG-MY, CVT IS SPONSORING:

BUU CHIEM
NGUYEN AN
TON MAN

ONLY CHIEM IS A LABOR OFFICIAL, BUT CVT WORKED WITH MAN IN SUPPORT OF DZU. AN INDEPENDENT LABOR UNION MADE UP MOSTLY OF LAMBRETTA DRIVERS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN DISPUTE WITH THEN PROVINCE CHIEF
BUI HOANH AND CVT EARLIER THIS YEAR OVER QUESTION OF TRANSPORTATION ROUTES IS SUPPORTING PROTESTANT PHAN-VIET-CHU. CHU HAS BEEN NOTED MOST FOR FACT THAT HE HAS BEEN SPENDING MORE MONEY THAN ANYONE ELSE ON CAMPAIGN.

PAGE 6 RUMJIR 9189 C O N F I D E N T I A L
9. A NUMBER OF AD HOC ALLIANCES HAVE DEVELOPED, APPARENTLY BASED ON PERSONALITIES INVOLVED RATHER THAN ON PARTY LINES. MOST IMPORTANT SEEMS TO BE AMONG THREE LEADING CANDIDATES. J

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

TRANAVAN-PHIEN - CA DEPUTY
NGUYEN-AN - SECGEN NTT VNQDD
NGUYEN-BIEN - RDV

PHIEN IS A PROVEN VOTE GETTER, HAVING HEADED A WINNING LIST (17,800 VOTES) IN 1966 CA ELECTION IN WHICH HE RAN UNDER TDV LABEL. PHIEN WAS WOULD BE UPPER HOUSE CANDIDATE ON TRI QUANG SUPPORTED HO-HUU-TUONG LIST WHICH WAS ELIMINATED. PHIEN HAS AVOIDED MISTAKE OF MANY CA DEPUTIES HAVING MAINTAINED CONTACTS IN QUANG NGAI. HE CLAIMS THAT IF ONE OF THREE IS ELECTED THEY ALL WILL BE. NGUYEN-AN WILL HAVE SUPPORT OF TRAN HOANG FACTION (NTT) OF VNQDD AND CVT. NGUYEN-BIEN IN ADDITION TO RDV SUPPORT (4 RDV LISTS AVERAGED ABOUT 17,600 VOTES IN UPPER HOUSE ELECTION), WILL PROBABLY RECIEVE ACTIVE SUPPORT FROM MANY OF HIS EX-STUDENTS. DEP FOR ADMIN CLAIMS BIEN IS STRONGEST CONTENDER AND ALMOST EVERYONE WITH WHOM ELECTION IS DISCUSSED CONSIDER BIEN A PROBABLE WINNER.

10. ANOTHER ALLIANCE HAS BEEN FORMED BY CAPTAIN TRAN-TOAN-THANG AND CHAU-DINH-HOANG, WHO ARE BOTH CATHOLICS. THANG IS KNOWN AS THE GVN CANDIDATE AND IS EXPECTED TO GET MUCH OF MILITARY VOTE. CHAU-DINH-HOANG IS AN EX-CAN LAO MEMBER AND APPARENTLY CAN COUNT ON SOLID CATHOLIC BACKING.

11. A THIRD ALLIANCE HAS BEEN FORMED BY LE-TRUYEN AND VU-QUANG-BINH WHO ARE MAKING BID FOR CIVIL SERVANT VOTE. APPARENTLY TRAN KY TE DAI VIETS ARE ALSO SUPPORTING THIS GROUP AND THEIR CANDIDATE DANG-THIEN-VUONG WORKING WITH THEM.

12. AS OF ELECTION EVE STRONGEST CONTENDERS FOR QUANG NGAI'S 4 VIETNAMESE SEATS APPEAR TO BE:

TRAN VAN PHIEN - BUDDHIST AND CA DEPUTY
NGUYEN-BIEN - RDV
NGUYEN-AN - "NTT" VNQDD & CVT
TON-MAN - TDV AND CVT
CAPT TRAN-TOAN-THANG - CATHOLIC AND MILITARY
LE-MY-DAI - "URR" VNQDD AND BUDDHIST

SURE WINNER IS DINH-VAN-ROI, ONLY MONTAGNARD CANDIDATE.
KOREN
UNQUOTE
BUNKER

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED